

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide 2010

A descriptive analysis of the characteristics and
circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner
homicide in Virginia

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Introduction

The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project is a public health effort for understanding the scope of fatal domestic violence in Virginia. It provides a standardized monitoring method for reviewing all domestic related homicides in the state. By collecting demographic information about victims of domestic violence, the project identifies which groups are at risk and the common risk factors that shape lethal domestic relationships. With this data, we can identify the magnitude of the most dangerous domestic violence in Virginia.

The project is coordinated at the Virginia Department of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Cases are identified by newspaper surveillance and through OCME records. Cases in the project are deaths deemed by the OCME as a homicide after a medico-legal death investigation. Since deaths are identified by newspaper surveillance and OCME records, numbers may be different from other data reported by law enforcement agencies and the Virginia Division of Health Statistics. Information about each homicide is drawn from death certificates, autopsy reports, law enforcement reports, and other records compiled during the death investigation, as well as court records and internet searches.

Technical Notes

To provide a sense of where domestic violence deaths occur in Virginia, two types of regional breakdowns are provided. *Health Planning Regions* (HPR) describe where the fatal injury occurred, revealing areas of the Commonwealth where prevention efforts are most needed. Cases in which the decedent was fatally injured in Virginia but died in another state are also included in the project. *OCME Districts* portray where the death investigation took place, which may be different from the district where injury occurred.

Rates are calculated for every 100,000 persons in the population. Therefore, if a homicide rate is 2, then for every 100,000 people in that population group, there were 2 people that were killed. Population data are from the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Health Statistics.

| Table 1: Virginia Population by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex: 2010 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
| Race | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| White | 2,937,760 | 36.7 | 2,883,954 | 36.0 | 5,821,714 | 72.8 |
| Black | 856,606 | 10.7 | 784,230 | 9.8 | 1,640,836 | 20.5 |
| Other | 280,675 | 3.5 | 257,799 | 3.2 | 538,474 | 6.7 |
| Total | 4,075,041 | 50.9 | 3,925,983 | 49.1 | 8,001,024 | 100 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 302,881 | 3.8 | 328,944 | 4.1 | 631,825 | 7.9 |

Ethnicity is separate from Race in this report, as hispanic persons can identify as a member of any race and are a separate ethnic group.

Small numbers of cases and rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted and used with caution.

The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance project uses the following six categories to differentiate types of domestic violence.

| | |
|---|--|
| Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH) | A homicide in which a victim was killed by one of the following: spouse (married or separated), former spouse, current or former boyfriend, girlfriend or same-sex partner, or dating partner. This group could include homicides in which only one of the parties had pursued a relationship or perceived a relationship with the other, where at least one of the following was historically noted: rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order. |
| Intimate Partner Associated Homicide (IPA) | A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. Victims could include alleged abusers killed by law enforcement or persons caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, new intimate partners, or bystanders. |
| Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC) | A homicide in which a victim was a child under the age of 18 killed by a caregiver. |
| Elder Homicide by Caregiver (EHC) | A homicide in which a victim was an adult 55 years or older who was killed by a caregiver. |
| Other Family Homicide (OFH) | A homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage (e.g. grandparent, [step]parent, [step]sibling, cousin, in-laws) and who does not meet the criteria for one of the four groups above |
| Family Associated Homicide (FAH) | A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship. Victims could include persons killed by law enforcement during a familial conflict or persons caught in the crossfire, such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, or bystanders. |

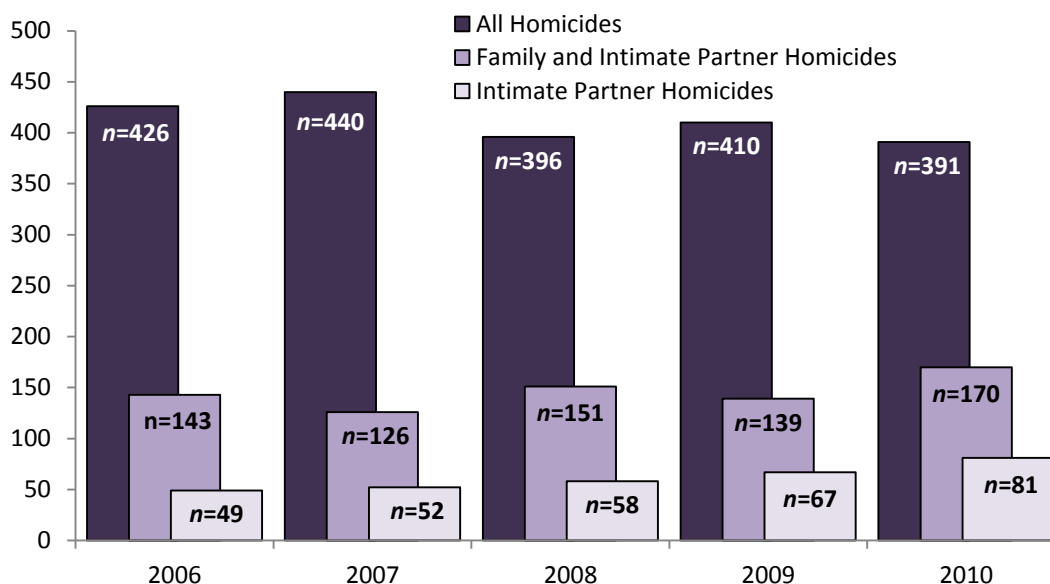
All Virginia Homicide

This report focuses on Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) homicide in Virginia in 2010. To understand the context of FIP homicides, characteristics of all 2010 homicides are provided.¹

- In 2010, there were 391 homicides in Virginia with a rate of 4.9. This reflects a 4.6% decrease between 2009 and 2010.
- Most victims were male (72.1%) with a rate of 7.2. Females had a rate of 2.7.
- Most victims were black making up 54% of victims at a rate of 13. Whites made up 39% of victims at a much lower rate of 2.6
- Seventy-one percent of all homicide victims were killed with a firearm.
- The highest number of male victims was between the ages of 15-24 (33.7%), and the highest number of female victims was between the ages of 35-44 (21.1%) Homicide victim's ages ranged from less than a year old to 92 years old.

Family and intimate partner homicides rose 22.3% from 2009 to 2010, and comprised 43.5% of all Virginia homicides.

Figure 1: Number of Homicide Victims, Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Victims, and Intimate Partner Homicide Victims in Virginia between 2006 and 2010



¹ Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health (2012) Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Annual Report, 2010. Retrieved July 31, 2012 from <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/medExam/documents/2012/pdf/AnnualReport10.pdf>

Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide

FIP homicide includes the following 6 categories of what is often called “domestic violence”: Intimate Partner Homicide, Intimate Partner Associated Homicide, Child Homicide by Caregiver, Elder Homicide by Caregiver, Other Family Homicide, and Family Associated Homicide (see page 6 for specific definitions). In this project, FIP homicide is broken down into these categories based on the relationship between the alleged offender and the victim to explore the circumstances and characteristics of these events.

- In 2010, there were 154 family and intimate partner homicide events with 170 victims in Virginia. The rate of FIP homicide was 2.1, and FIP victims made up 43.5% of all homicide victims.
- FIP homicide increased 22.3% between 2009 and 2010.
- Ninety-two females were killed from FIP homicide with a rate of 2.3, and 78 males were killed with a rate of 2.0.
- More females ($n=68$) than males ($n=13$) were killed from intimate partner violence. More males ($n=19$) than females ($n=6$) were killed from intimate partner associated violence. Also, more males ($n=28$) than females ($n=9$) were killed from family violence.
- White Virginians were more frequently killed ($n=103$) than black Virginians ($n=59$). However, black Virginians had a higher rate at 3.6 than white Virginians at 1.8.
- FIP homicide victims were most likely to be killed with a firearm (57.1%).
- The most common age of a victim was between the ages of 35-44 ($n=37$). Infants were the most vulnerable age group with the highest FIP homicide rate of 12.0.
- Alcohol use was evident in 36.4% of events. Other substance use was evident in 20.8% of events.
- The majority of FIP homicides ($n=121$, 78.6%) occurred at a residence.

FIP Homicide Victim Age

- The mean age of FIP homicide victims was 35.
- The mean age of alleged offenders was 38.
- Male infants had the highest homicide rate at 17.6 followed by female infants at 6.1.
- Among adults, females aged 15-24 had the highest FIP homicide rate at 3.7.

Figure 2: Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=170): 2010

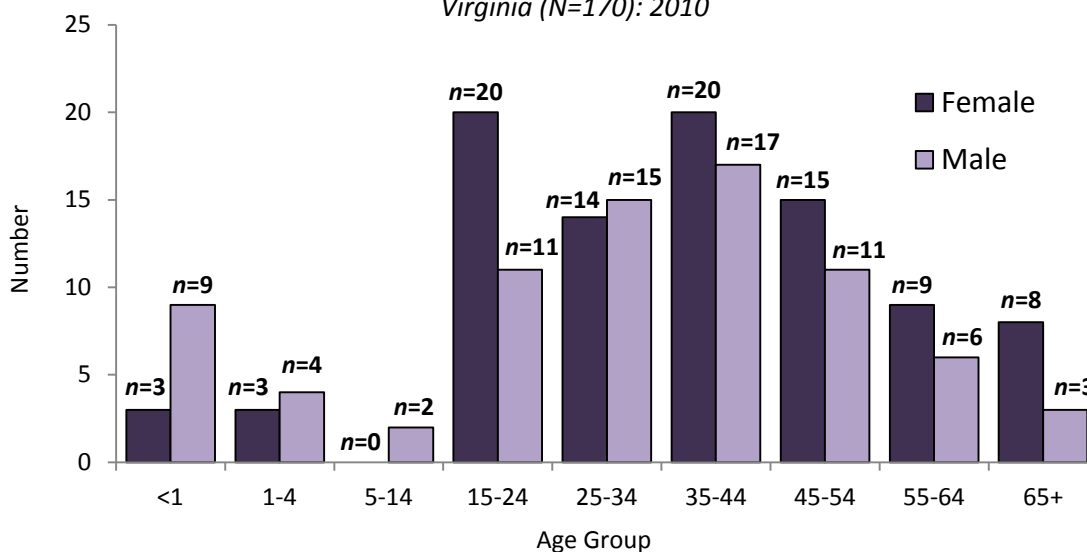
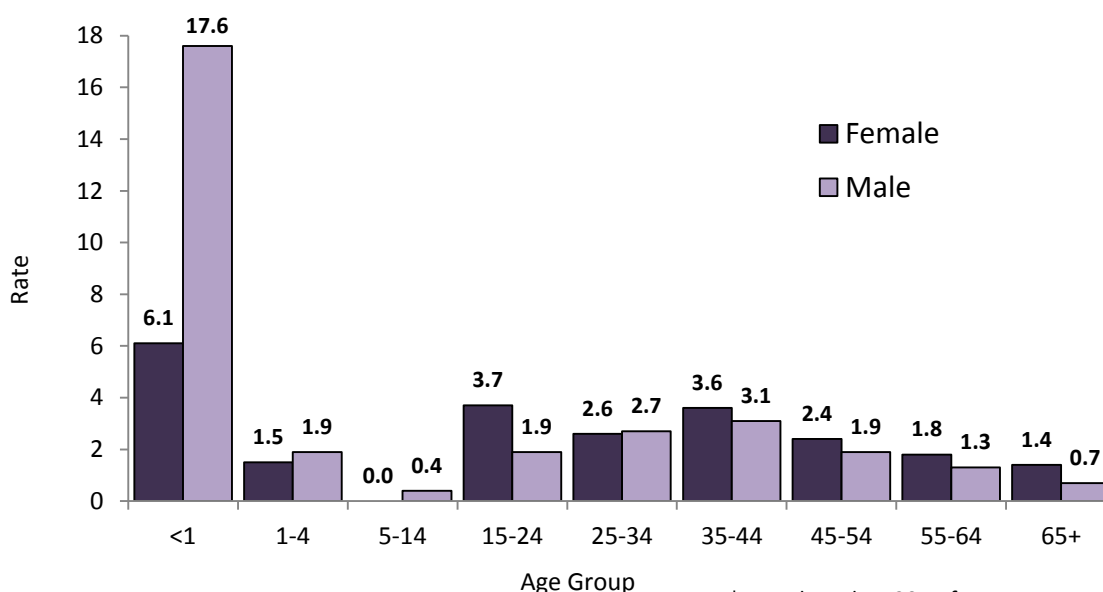


Figure 3: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=170): 2010*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

OCME District

- The Western District had the highest rate of deaths at 3.0.
- The Tidewater District had a rate of 2.6, and the Central District had a rate of 2.4.
- The Northern District had the lowest rate of 1.0

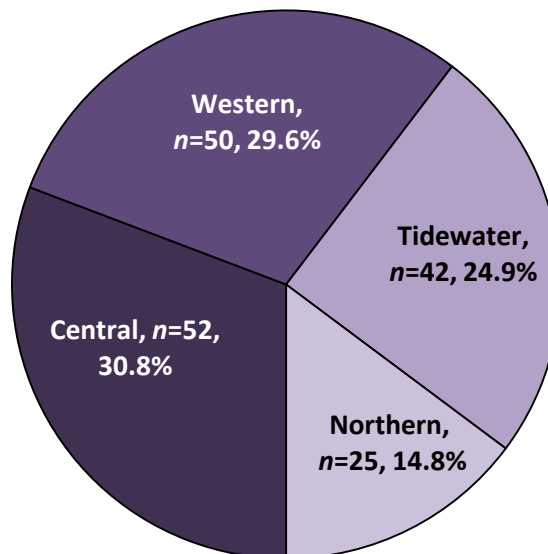
Top Localities for FIP Homicide

1. Richmond City ($n=10$)
2. Chesapeake City ($n=9$)
3. Prince William County ($n=8$)
4. Virginia Beach City ($n=8$)
5. Fairfax County ($n=8$)
6. Henrico County ($n=7$)
7. Norfolk City ($n=7$)

Health Planning Region

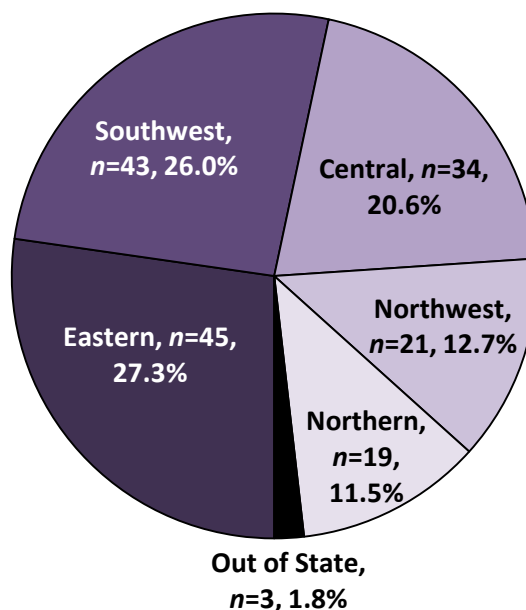
- The Southwest HPR had the highest rate of 3.2.
- The Central and Eastern HPRs each had a rate of 2.5.
- The Northwest HPR had a rate of 1.7.
- The Northern HPR had the lowest rate of 0.9.

Figure 4: Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=169): 2010*



*In one case the fatal injury occurred in Virginia, but the death occurred in another state and was not investigated by the OCME.

Figure 5: Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=165): 2010*



*The HPR of fatal injury was unknown in 5 cases.

Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity*Table 2: FIP Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=170): 2010**

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|-----------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Race | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| White | 54 | 58.7 | 1.8 | 49 | 62.8 | 1.7 | 103 | 60.6 | 1.8 |
| Black | 31 | 33.7 | 3.6 | 28 | 35.9 | 3.6 | 59 | 34.7 | 3.6 |
| Other | 7 | 7.6 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 8 | 4.7 | 0.9 |
| Total | 92 | 100 | 2.3 | 78 | 100 | 2.0 | 170 | 100 | 2.1 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 2 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 3 | 3.8 | 0.9 | 5 | 2.9 | 0.8 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

- Black Virginians had a FIP homicide rate (3.6) twice as high as white Virginians (1.8).
- Black females and males had the highest rate (3.6), followed by all 'Other' females with a rate of 2.5.

Fatal Agency*Table 3: FIP Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=170): 2010*

| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Fatal Agency | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Firearm | 57 | 62.0 | 40 | 51.3 | 97 | 57.1 |
| Sharp Instrument | 14 | 15.2 | 12 | 15.4 | 26 | 15.3 |
| Personal Weapon | 6 | 6.5 | 15 | 19.2 | 21 | 12.4 |
| Blunt Instrument | 8 | 8.7 | 7 | 9.0 | 15 | 8.8 |
| Strangle | 6 | 6.5 | 2 | 2.6 | 8 | 4.7 |
| Smother | 2 | 2.2 | 1 | 1.3 | 3 | 1.8 |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.3 | 2 | 1.2 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.6 |
| Other/Unknown | 4 | 4.3 | 4 | 5.1 | 8 | 4.7 |

- The most common fatal agency used in FIP homicides was a firearm, used in 57.1% of the homicides.
- Sharp instruments and personal weapons (such as using one's hands or body) were also common fatal agencies.
- Females were more frequently strangled, and males were more frequently killed by a personal weapon.
- Six females and 5 males were killed by 2 or more fatal agencies.

Other Victims

- At least 30 other people were attacked and survived the 154 FIP homicide events.
- Forty-six events involved more than one decedent. Thirty-six of these were a homicide-suicide event.
- At least 88 children were present during a FIP homicide event. The type of exposure varied but included a child visually witnessing the event, hearing the event, finding the homicide victim, being on the premises during the event, or some combination of these.

Type of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide

- Females more commonly died as a result of intimate partner violence ($n=68$) than males ($n=13$).
- Males more commonly died from intimate partner associated violence ($n=19$) than females ($n=6$). Males also more commonly died from family violence ($n=28$) than females ($n=9$).
- In 2010, there were 2 victims of elder homicide by caregiver.
- Of the 26 family and intimate partner homicide victims under 18 years old, 20 were child homicide by caregiver victims, 2 were intimate partner associated homicide victims, 2 were other family homicide victims, and 2 were family associated homicide victims.

Figure 6: Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Type in Virginia ($N=170$): 2010

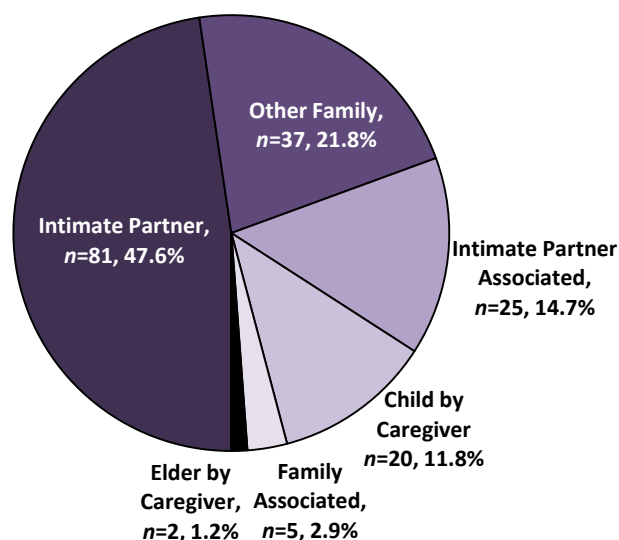


Table 4: FIP Homicide Victims by Type and Sex in Virginia ($N=170$): 2010*

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|-------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Type | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| IPH | 68 | 73.9 | 1.7 | 13 | 16.7 | 0.3 | 81 | 47.6 | 1.0 |
| IPA | 6 | 6.5 | 0.1 | 19 | 24.4 | 0.5 | 25 | 14.7 | 0.3 |
| CHC | 7 | 7.6 | 0.2 | 13 | 16.7 | 0.3 | 20 | 11.8 | 0.2 |
| EHC | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.6 | <0.1 | 2 | 1.2 | <0.1 |
| OFH | 9 | 9.8 | 0.2 | 28 | 35.9 | 0.7 | 37 | 21.8 | 0.5 |
| FAH | 2 | 2.2 | <0.1 | 3 | 3.8 | <0.1 | 5 | 2.9 | <0.1 |
| Total | 92 | 100 | 2.3 | 78 | 100 | 2.0 | 170 | 100 | 2.1 |

*See page 6 for definitions

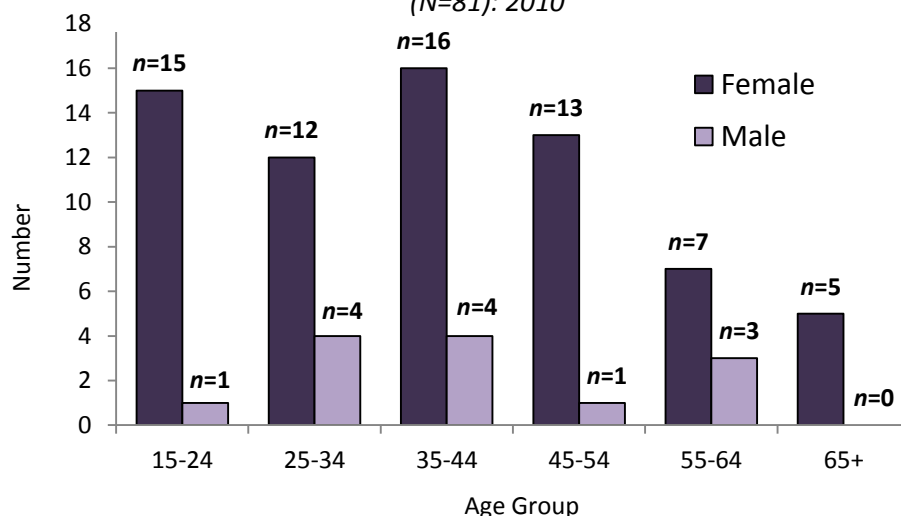
*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH) is classified as a homicide in which a victim was killed by a spouse (married or separated); former spouse; current or former boyfriend/girlfriend or same sex partner; or where one partner perceived a relationship with the other and there was a history of rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order.

- There were 81 intimate partner homicides in Virginia at a rate of 1.0.
- Sixty-eight females were killed from IPH with a rate of 1.7, and 13 males were killed from IPH with a rate of 0.3.
- IPH in Virginia increased 21.0% between 2009 and 2010.

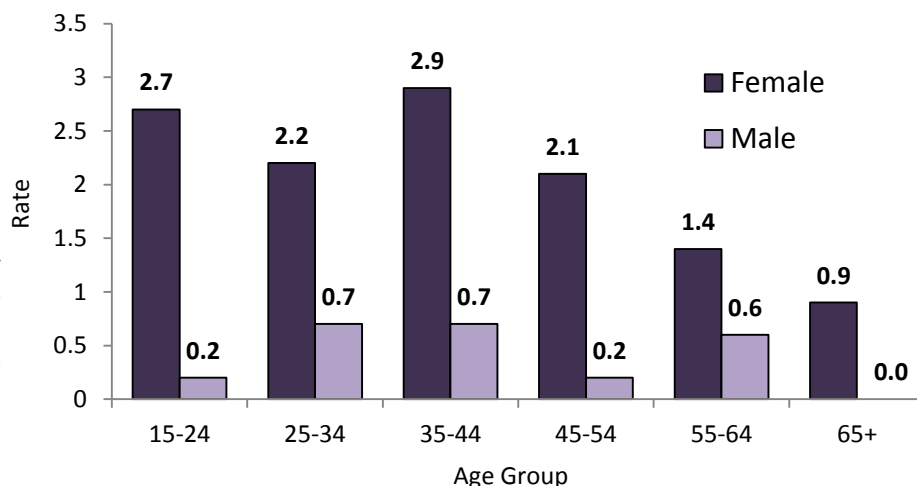
IPH Victim Age

Figure 7: Number of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia
(N=81): 2010



- The mean age of both the IPH victims and the alleged offenders was 40 years old.
- IPH victim's ages ranged from 18 to 83.
- Alleged offenders ages ranged from 17 to 85.
- Females aged 35 to 44 had the highest rate of IPH at 2.9.

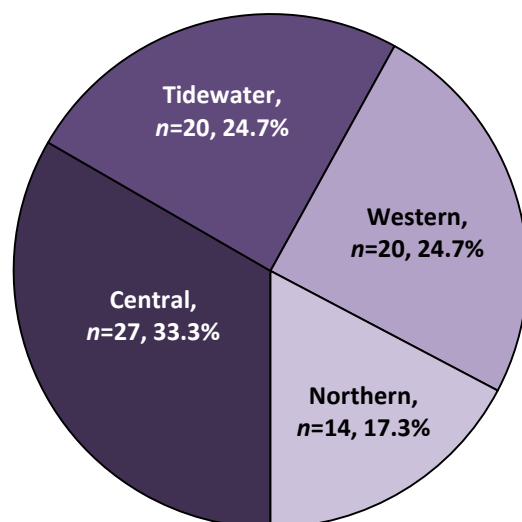
Figure 8: Rate of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=81): 2010*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 9: Percentage of IPH Victims by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=81): 2010



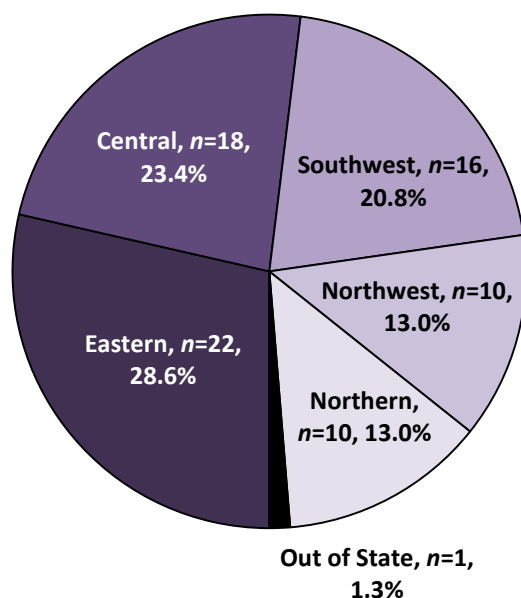
Rates by OCME District

- Central= 1.3
- Tidewater= 1.3
- Western= 1.2
- Northern= 0.5

Top Localities for IP Homicide

1. Fairfax County (n=6)
2. Richmond City (n=4)
3. Roanoke City (n=4)
4. Virginia Beach City (n=4)
5. Norfolk City (n=4)

Figure 10: Percentage of IPH Victims by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=77): 2010*



Rates by Health Planning Region

- Central= 1.3
- Eastern= 1.2
- Southwest= 1.2
- Northern= 0.8
- Northern= 0.4

*In 4 cases, the locality of the fatal injury was unknown.

* Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity*Table 5: IPH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=81): 2010**

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|-----------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Race | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| White | 40 | 58.8 | 1.4 | 7 | 53.8 | 0.2 | 47 | 58.0 | 0.8 |
| Black | 23 | 33.8 | 2.7 | 6 | 46.2 | 0.4 | 29 | 35.8 | 1.8 |
| Other | 5 | 7.4 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5 | 6.1 | 0.9 |
| Total | 68 | 100 | 1.7 | 13 | 100 | 0.3 | 81 | 100 | 1.0 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 2 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.5 | 0.3 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

- Black Virginians were at a much higher risk for intimate partner homicide with a rate of 1.8 when compared with white Virginians with a rate of 0.8 and Virginians of other races at a rate of 0.9.
- Black females were almost twice more likely to die from intimate partner violence than white females.

Fatal Agency

- A firearm was used in 60.5% of all intimate partner homicides.
- One male and 3 females were killed by 2 or more fatal agencies.
- 64.7% of females were killed with a firearm, while 38.5% of males were killed with a firearm. An equal number of males were killed with a sharp instrument as with a firearm.

Table 6: IPH Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=81): 2010

| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Fatal Agency | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Firearm | 44 | 64.7 | 5 | 38.5 | 49 | 60.5 |
| Sharp Instrument | 10 | 14.7 | 5 | 38.5 | 15 | 18.5 |
| Personal Weapon | 1 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Blunt Instrument | 7 | 10.3 | 2 | 15.3 | 9 | 11.1 |
| Strangle | 5 | 7.3 | 2 | 15.3 | 7 | 8.6 |
| Smother | 1 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other/Unknown | 2 | 2.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.5 |

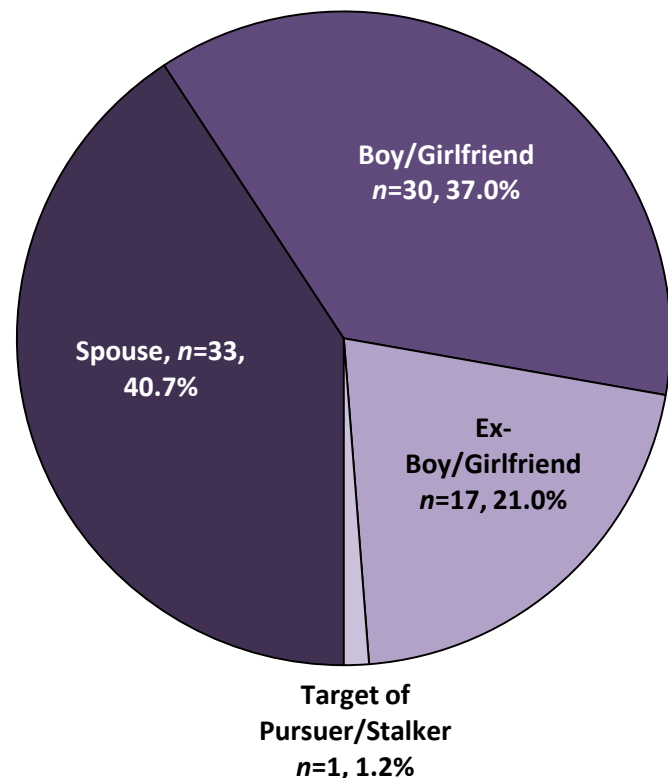
Other Victims

- A third of intimate partner homicide victims ($n=27$, 33.3%) were killed in a homicide-suicide event.
- In over a quarter of cases, ($n=23$, 28.4%) a child or children were present during the event. At least 40 children were exposed.
- In addition to the 81 intimate partner homicide victims, 9 people were attacked and survived the event.

Homicide Victim to Perpetrator Relationship

Figure 11: Number of IPH Victims by Type of Relationship between Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=81): 2010

- IP homicides were most often committed by a spouse (40.7%) or a boy/girlfriend (37.0%).
- Seventeen ex-boy/girlfriends committed IP homicide.
- One homicide (1.2%) involved people who had never been in a relationship, however one person perceived or desired a relationship, and the other person did not reciprocate.
- These categories include same-sex couples.



Intimate Partner Associated Homicide (IPA) is categorized as a homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. This includes abusers killed by law enforcement and people caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence, such as old/new intimate partners, neighbors, co-workers, friends, relatives, or bystanders.

- In 2010, 25 IPA homicides occurred in Virginia with a rate of 0.3.
- IPA homicide decreased 16.7% between 2009 and 2010.
- Males were much more likely to die from IPA homicide than females. Nineteen males were killed at a rate of 0.4, and 6 females were killed at a rate of 0.1.

IPA Homicide Victim Age

Figure 12: Number of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=25): 2010

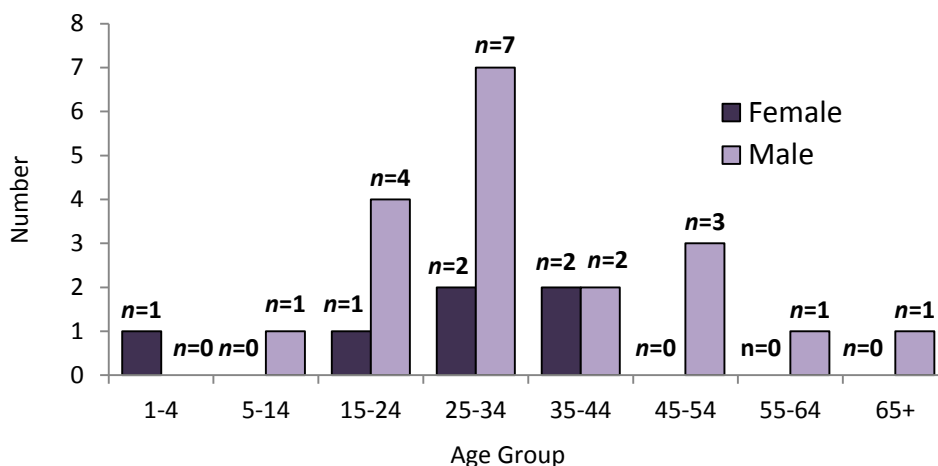
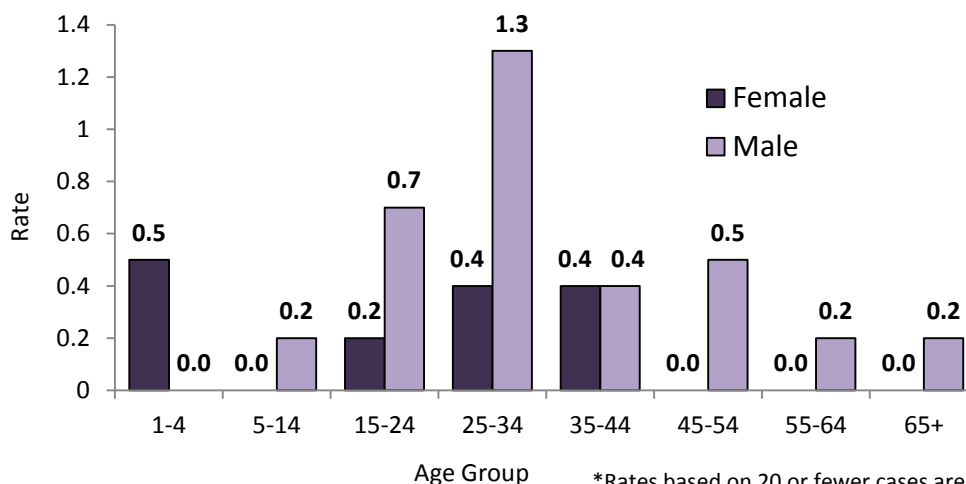


Figure 13: Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=25): 2010*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

- The mean age of IPA homicide victims was 32 years old.
- The mean age of alleged offenders was 33 years old.
- The age of victims ranged from 3 to 72 years old.
- Males aged 25 to 34 had the highest IPA homicide rate at 1.3, followed by males aged 15 to 24 at a rate of 0.7.

Locality

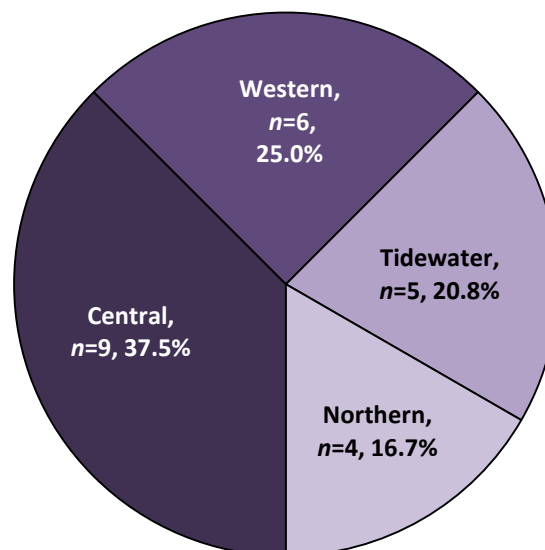
Rates for OCME Districts*

- Central= 0.4
- Western= 0.4
- Tidewater= 0.3
- Northern= 0.2

Top Localities for IPA Homicide

1. Richmond City (n=5)
2. Prince William County (n=3)
3. Norfolk City (n=2)

Figure 14: Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=24): 2010*

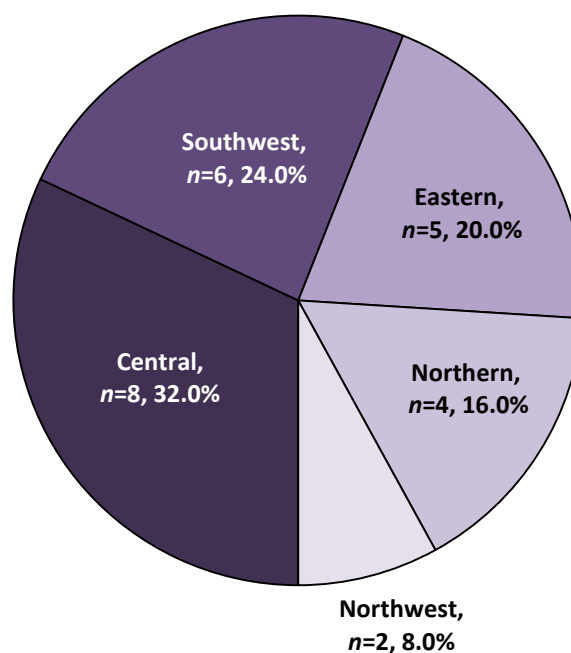


*In one case, the fatal injury occurred in Virginia, but the death occurred in another state and was not investigated by the OCME.

Figure 15: Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=25): 2010

Rates for Health Planning Regions*

- Central= 0.6
- Southwest= 0.4
- Eastern= 0.3
- Northern= 0.2
- Northwest= 0.2



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity*Table 7: IPA Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=25): 2010**

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| White | 2 | 33.3 | <0.1 | 9 | 47.4 | 0.3 | 11 | 44.0 | 0.2 |
| Black | 4 | 66.7 | 0.5 | 10 | 52.6 | 1.3 | 14 | 56.0 | 0.9 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 6 | 100 | 0.1 | 19 | 100 | 0.4 | 25 | 100 | 0.3 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2 | 10.5 | 0.6 | 2 | 8.0 | 0.3 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

- Eleven white Virginians and 14 black Virginians died as a result of IPA violence.
- Black males had the highest rate of IPA homicide at 1.3, followed by black females at a rate of 0.5.
- There were 2 hispanic victims of IPA homicide with a rate of 0.3.

Fatal Agency*Table 8: IPA Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=25): 2010*

| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Fatal Agency | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Firearm | 4 | 66.7 | 13 | 68.4 | 17 | 68.0 |
| Sharp Instrument | 2 | 33.3 | 4 | 21.1 | 6 | 24.0 |
| Personal Weapon | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Blunt Instrument | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 | 4.0 |
| Strangle | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Smother | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Motor Vehicle | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.3 | 1 | 4.0 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other/Unknown | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |

- IPA homicide victims were most often killed with a firearm.
- The second most common fatal agency was a sharp instrument.
- One male victim was killed with a blunt instrument and another by a motor vehicle.

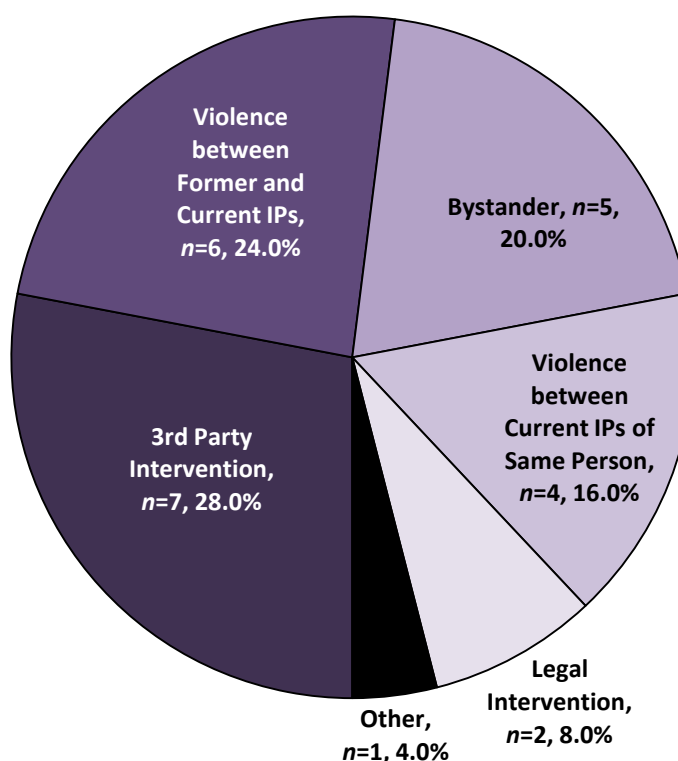
Other Victims

- In addition to the 25 IPA homicide victims, 12 people were attacked and survived the event.
- In the 21 IPA homicides where the victim was the primary decedent, a third (33.3%) had a child or children present, with at least 19 children exposed.
- Three events involved 2 or more decedents, including 2 cases of homicide-suicide.

Decedent and Alleged Offender Relationship

- IPA homicides most often occurred when a third party intervened in an altercation between intimate partners (n=7).
- In 24.0% of cases, the violence occurred between a current and a former intimate partner of the same person. In 16.0% of cases, the violence was between two people in a relationship with the same person.
- In 20.0% of cases, a bystander of intimate partner violence was killed. These people include friends, family, children, acquaintances, and strangers of the involved intimate partners.
- 8.0% of cases involved the decedent being killed by law enforcement during intimate partner conflict.

Figure 16: Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Type in Virginia (N=25): 2010



Precipitating Characteristics are the circumstances occurring immediately before or during the homicide event that could be considered a trigger of the homicide. The information provided is valuable but likely provides a conservative estimate of the true magnitude of the characteristics involved in these events. Information regarding precipitating characteristics was obtained for 102 out of 106 IPH and IPA homicide cases (96.2%).

- A total of 205 separate characteristics were identified in the 102 homicide cases.
- The most common precipitating characteristics were the end or ending of a relationship (48.0%), substance use (43.1%), and a new or perceived new partner (31.4%).
- It was more common for females than males to be killed during the ending of a relationship. Also females were more often killed than males during an argument over a child, or if the homicide was a mercy killing.
- It was more common for males to be killed when the alleged offender acted in self defense. Also, males were more commonly killed when alcohol or illegal substances were present during the event.

| <i>Table 9: Most Common Precipitating Characteristics of IPH and IPA Homicide by Sex in Virginia (N=102): 2010</i> | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | Female Victim | | Male Victim | | Total | |
| Precipitating Characteristic | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Relationship had ended or was ending | 42 | 60.0 | 10 | 31.3 | 52 | 51.0 |
| Alcohol or illegal substances being used | 27 | 38.6 | 18 | 56.3 | 45 | 44.1 |
| New partner or a perception of a new partner | 21 | 30.0 | 11 | 34.4 | 32 | 31.4 |
| Financial hardships | 7 | 10.0 | 4 | 12.5 | 11 | 10.9 |
| Self defense | 1 | 1.4 | 7 | 21.9 | 8 | 7.8 |
| Issues regarding child custody or child support | 5 | 7.1 | 1 | 3.1 | 6 | 5.9 |
| Alleged offender had a contributing mental illness | 4 | 5.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 3.9 |
| Mercy killing | 3 | 4.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 2.9 |
| Decedent shot by law enforcement during IP conflict | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 3.1 | 2 | 2.0 |
| Accidental shooting | 2 | 2.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.0 |

Risk Factors are characteristics that were present in an intimate partner relationship prior to the occurrence of the homicide which might have placed the victim at an increased probability for lethal violence. Information regarding risk factors was obtained for 98 of the 106 IPH and IPA homicides (92.5%).

- Over half of relationships had ended or were in the process of ending. This was more common when the victim was female.
- In at least 40.8% of cases, a third party was aware of the domestic violence occurring in the intimate partner relationship.
- There was history of physical violence in at least 33.7% of intimate partner relationships.
- There was previous or ongoing civil court involvement in 22.4% of cases. This includes proceedings related to divorce, child support, child visitation, child custody, and/or protective orders.

| <i>Table 10: Most Common Risk Factors for IPH and IPA Homicide by Sex in Virginia (N=98): 2010</i> | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|-------------|------|-------|------|
| Risk Factor | Female Victim | | Male Victim | | Total | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Relationship had ended or was ending | 42 | 60.9 | 12 | 41.4 | 54 | 55.1 |
| A third party was aware of the DV | 35 | 50.7 | 5 | 17.2 | 40 | 40.8 |
| Alleged offender arrested and/or convicted of non-DV offenses | 27 | 39.1 | 11 | 37.9 | 38 | 38.8 |
| History of physical assault in IP relationship | 26 | 37.7 | 7 | 24.1 | 33 | 33.7 |
| Existence of non-biological child | 23 | 33.3 | 9 | 31.0 | 32 | 32.7 |
| New partner or perception of new partner | 19 | 27.5 | 12 | 41.4 | 31 | 31.6 |
| Alleged offender abused alcohol | 22 | 31.9 | 8 | 27.6 | 30 | 30.6 |
| Alleged offender used illegal drugs | 16 | 23.2 | 10 | 34.5 | 26 | 26.5 |
| Current civil court proceeding | 21 | 30.4 | 1 | 3.4 | 22 | 22.4 |
| Past 911 and/or police response | 20 | 29.0 | 1 | 3.4 | 21 | 21.4 |
| Protective order obtained | 20 | 29.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 20 | 20.4 |
| Victim threatened to be killed | 13 | 18.8 | 3 | 10.3 | 16 | 16.3 |
| Current financial hardships | 11 | 15.9 | 5 | 17.2 | 16 | 16.3 |
| Alleged offender violent outside of home | 11 | 15.9 | 3 | 10.3 | 14 | 14.3 |
| Jealous and/or controlling behavior | 12 | 17.4 | 2 | 6.9 | 14 | 14.3 |
| Alleged offender threatened and/or attempted suicide | 9 | 13.0 | 3 | 10.3 | 12 | 12.2 |
| A partner moved out of home within the last year | 9 | 13.0 | 3 | 10.3 | 12 | 12.2 |
| Victim was threatened by alleged offender with weapon | 8 | 11.6 | 2 | 6.9 | 10 | 10.2 |
| Alleged offender unemployed or recently lost job | 8 | 11.6 | 2 | 6.9 | 10 | 10.2 |
| Victim stalked by alleged offender | 8 | 11.6 | 1 | 3.4 | 9 | 9.2 |
| Victim strangled by alleged offender | 8 | 11.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 8.2 |

Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC) is classified as a homicide in which the victim was under the age of 18 and killed by their caregiver, such as parents, relatives, babysitters, and daycare workers.

- A total of 26 people under the age of 18 were killed due to FIP violence, 20 of whom were killed by a caregiver and are classified as CHC.
- CHC decreased 23.1% between 2009 and 2010.
- There were 7 female victims at a rate of 0.8, and 13 male victims at a rate of 1.4.
- At least 17 other children were exposed to a CHC.
- In 5 cases (25.0%), the immediate family of the victim had previously been investigated by Child Protective Services.

Victim Age

Figure 17: Number of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2010

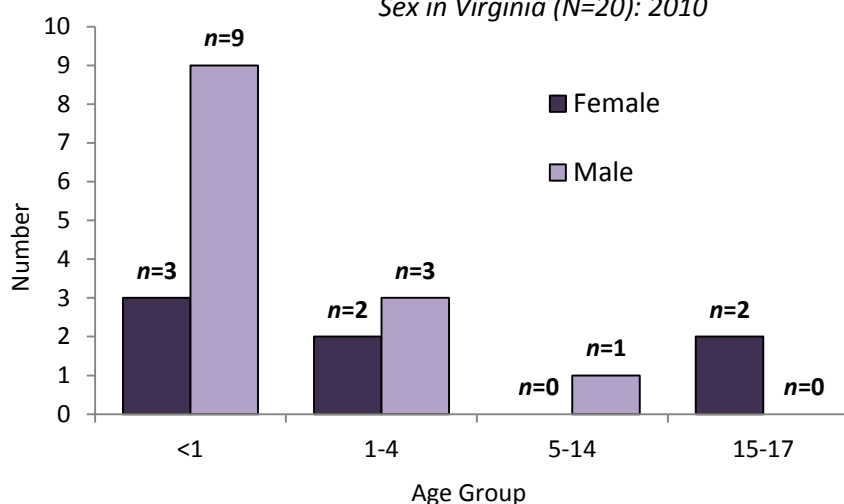
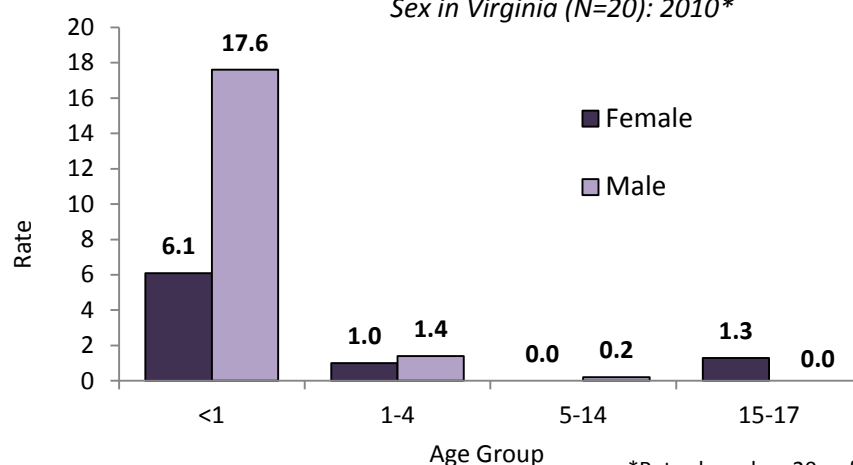


Figure 18: Rate of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2010*

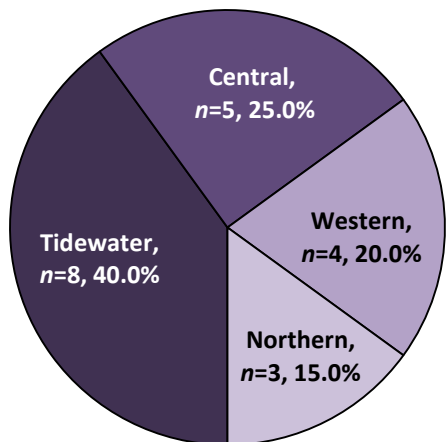


- Infant males had the most deaths (n=9) and the highest rate of 17.6. Infant females followed (n=3) with a rate of 6.1.
- The mean age of alleged offenders was 29 years.

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 19: Percentage of CHC Victims by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=20): 2010



Top Localities of CHC

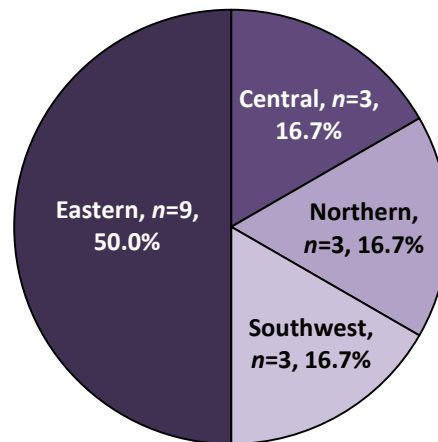
1. Newport News City (n=3)
2. Fairfax County (n=2)
3. Virginia Beach City (n=2)

Rates by OCME District*

- Tidewater= 2.1
- Western= 1.2
- Central= 1.0
- Northern= 0.5

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 20: Percentage of CHC Victims by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=18): 2010**



Rates by Health Planning Region*

- Eastern= 2.2
- Southwest= 1.1
- Central= 1.0
- Northwest= 0.5
- Northern= 0.0

**Two children were fatally injured out of state but died in Virginia.

Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity

- Females of races other than black or white had the highest rate of 3.0, followed by black males at a rate of 2.2 and white males at a rate of 1.2.
- Across both sexes, black children had the highest rate of CHC.
- In 2010, there were no hispanic children that died from CHC.

Table 11: CHC Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2010*

| Race | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| White | 3 | 42.9 | 0.5 | 8 | 61.5 | 1.2 | 11 | 55.0 | 0.9 |
| Black | 2 | 28.6 | 0.9 | 5 | 38.5 | 2.2 | 7 | 35.0 | 1.6 |
| Other | 2 | 28.6 | 3.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2 | 10.0 | 1.5 |
| Total | 7 | 100 | 0.8 | 13 | 100 | 1.4 | 20 | 100 | 1.1 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Fatal Agency

Table 12: CHC Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2010

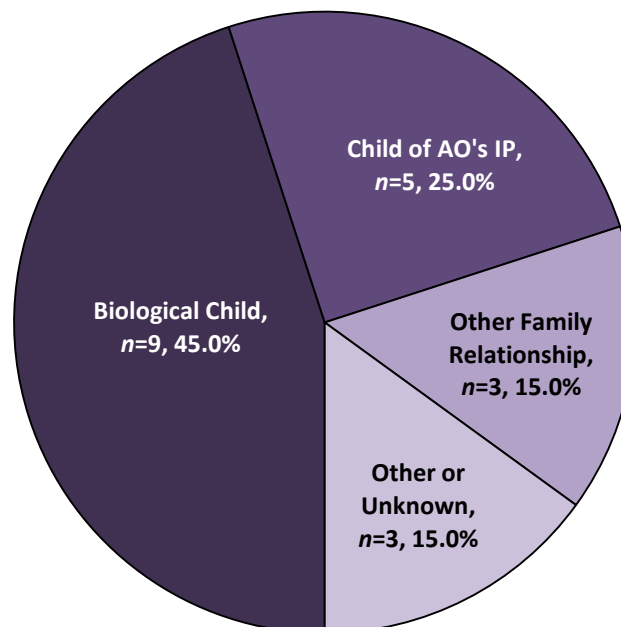
| Fatal Agency | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Firearm | 1 | 14.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.0 |
| Sharp Instrument | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Personal Weapon | 5 | 71.4 | 12 | 92.3 | 17 | 85.0 |
| Blunt Instrument | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Strangle | 1 | 14.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.0 |
| Smother | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 7.7 | 1 | 5.0 |
| Motor Vehicle | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other/Unknown | 1 | 14.3 | 2 | 15.4 | 3 | 15.0 |

- The most common fatal agency was a personal weapon, including being shaken or beaten ($n=17$), seen in 85.0% of CHC.
- One female and 2 males had 2 or more fatal agencies.
- Fatal agencies classified as 'other' include medical and nutritional neglect.

Relationship to Alleged Offender

Figure 21: Percentage of CHC Victims by Relationship to Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=20): 2010

- Most children ($n=9$) were killed by a biological parent.
- Of biological parents, 55.0% were known to be the father of the victim.
- All children killed by their parent's intimate partner ($n=5$) were killed by their mother's boyfriend.



Family Homicide (OFH) is classified as a homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage, and which does not meet the criteria for the other previous categories.

- Thirty-seven people were killed due to family homicide at a rate of 0.5.
- OFH increased 236.4% between 2009 and 2010.
- There were 9 females killed at a rate of 0.2, and 28 males killed at a rate of 0.7.
- At least 12 children were exposed to OFH.
- The decedent was most frequently a parent of the alleged offender (27%), followed by the decedent being the son or daughter or the alleged offender (21.6%).
- Six victims of OFH died during a homicide-suicide event.
- A total of 59 precipitating characteristics were identified, the most common being substance use ($n=19$) and argument over property ($n=9$).

OFH Victim Age

- The mean age of OFH victims was 42.
- The mean age of OFH alleged offenders was 39.
- The age group with the highest number of deaths was males aged 35-44 ($n=10$).

Figure 22: Number of OFH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=37): 2010

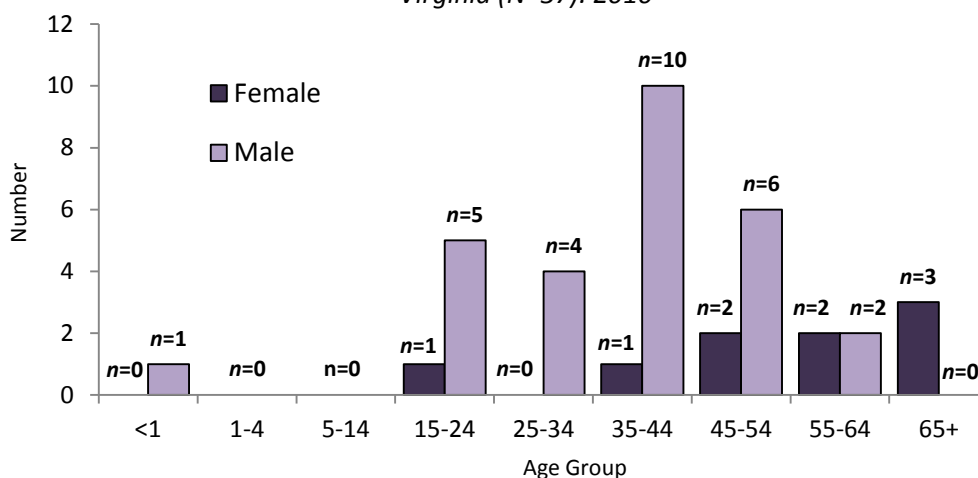
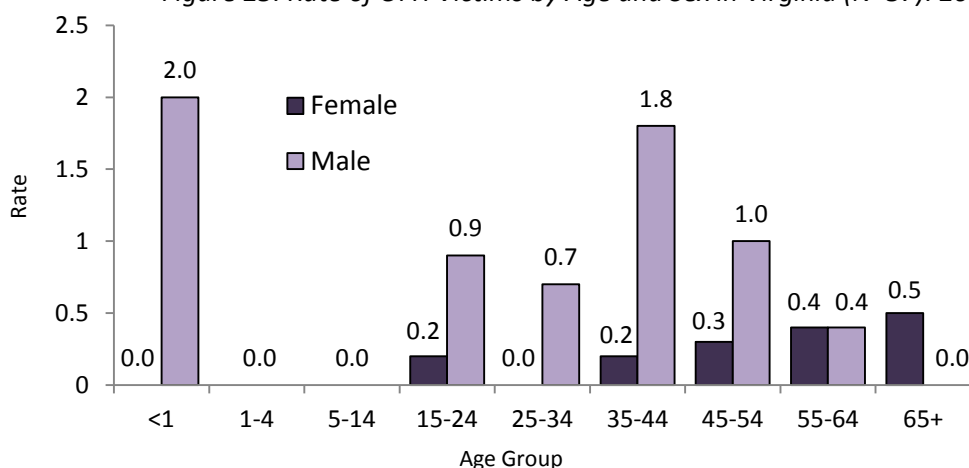


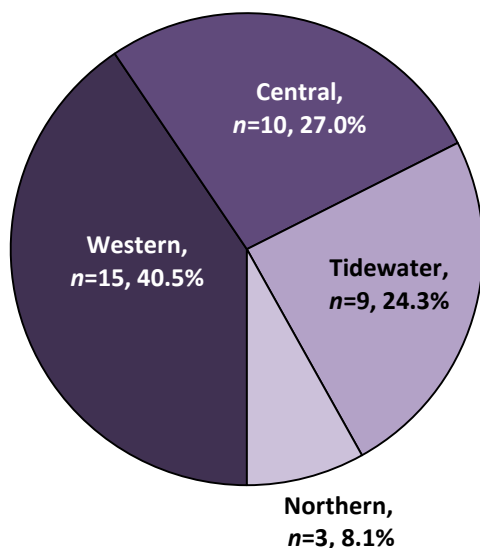
Figure 23: Rate of OFH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=37): 2010*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Homicide Locality

Figure 24: Percentage of OFH Victims by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=37): 2010



Rates by OCME District*

- Western= 0.9
- Tidewater= 0.6
- Central= 0.5
- Northern= 0.1

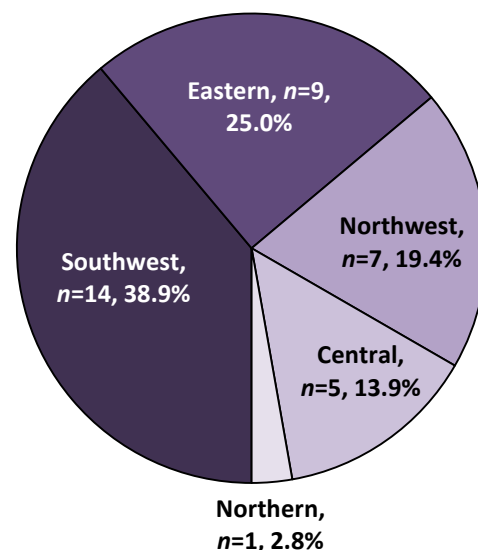
Top Localities of OFH

1. Chesapeake City (n=4)
2. Hampton City (n=3)
3. Henrico County (n=3)

Rates by Health Planning Region*

- Southwest= 1.0
- Northwest= 0.6
- Eastern= 0.5
- Central= 0.4
- Northern= 0.1

Figure 25: Percentage of OFH Victims by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=36): 2010**



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

**In one case the HPR was unknown.

Race and Ethnicity

- Black males had the highest rate of OFH at 0.9, followed by white males at a rate of 0.7.
- In 2010, black and whites were equally as likely to die from family violence.
- The rate for hispanic deaths from family violence was 0.2.

Table 13: OFH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=37): 2010*

| Race | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|-----------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| White | 7 | 77.8 | 0.2 | 20 | 71.4 | 0.7 | 27 | 73.0 | 0.5 |
| Black | 2 | 22.2 | 0.2 | 7 | 25.0 | 0.9 | 9 | 24.3 | 0.5 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 1 | 2.7 | 0.2 |
| Total | 9 | 100 | 0.2 | 28 | 100 | 0.7 | 37 | 100 | 0.5 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 1 | 2.7 | 0.2 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Fatal Agency*Table 14: OFH Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=37):2010*

| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|------------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Fatal Agency | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Firearm | 6 | 66.7 | 19 | 67.9 | 25 | 67.6 |
| Sharp Instrument | 2 | 22.2 | 3 | 10.7 | 5 | 13.5 |
| Personal Weapon | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 10.7 | 3 | 8.1 |
| Blunt Instrument | 1 | 11.1 | 3 | 10.7 | 4 | 10.8 |
| Strangle | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Smother | 1 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.7 |
| Motor Vehicle | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other/Unknown | 1 | 11.1 | 1 | 3.6 | 2 | 5.4 |

- The most frequent fatal agency of OFH was a firearm (67.6%).
- The second most common fatal agency was a sharp instrument (13.5%).
- Two females and 1 male were killed with 2 or more fatal agencies.

Family Associated Homicide (FAH)

2010

Family Associated Homicide (FAH) is a homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship.

- In 2010 there were 5 cases of FAH. Two victims were female and 3 victims were male.
- The mean age of a FAH victim was 33.8.
- One case was in the Central OCME district and 4 cases were in the Western district.
- One case was in the Northwest HPR and 4 cases were in the Southwest region.
- All victims were white.
- All victims were killed with a firearm.

Appendix

| Table 15: Five Year Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Summary* | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
| | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Female | 62 | 43.4 | 1.6 | 61 | 48.4 | 1.6 |
| Male | 81 | 56.6 | 2.2 | 65 | 51.6 | 1.7 |
| Race | | | | | | |
| White | 71 | 49.7 | 1.3 | 64 | 50.8 | 1.1 |
| Black | 70 | 49.0 | 4.5 | 58 | 46.0 | 3.7 |
| Other | 2 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 4 | 3.2 | 0.9 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 9 | 6.3 | 1.9 | 12 | 9.5 | 2.4 |
| Age | | | | | | |
| <1 | 15 | 10.5 | 14.5 | 7 | 5.6 | 6.6 |
| 1-4 | 8 | 5.6 | 2.0 | 5 | 4.0 | 1.2 |
| 5-14 | 4 | 2.8 | 0.4 | 5 | 4.0 | 0.5 |
| 15-24 | 21 | 14.7 | 2.0 | 21 | 16.7 | 1.9 |
| 25-34 | 23 | 16.1 | 2.2 | 23 | 18.3 | 2.2 |
| 35-44 | 29 | 20.3 | 2.5 | 26 | 20.6 | 2.2 |
| 45-54 | 22 | 15.4 | 1.9 | 12 | 9.5 | 1.0 |
| 55-64 | 13 | 9.1 | 1.6 | 17 | 13.5 | 2.0 |
| 65+ | 8 | 5.6 | 0.9 | 10 | 7.9 | 1.1 |
| Fatal Agency | | | | | | |
| Firearm | 82 | 57.3 | -- | 75 | 59.5 | -- |
| Sharp Instrument | 29 | 20.3 | -- | 22 | 17.5 | -- |
| Blunt Instrument | 7 | 4.9 | -- | 9 | 7.1 | -- |
| Personal Weapon | 9 | 6.3 | -- | 11 | 8.7 | -- |
| Strangle/Choke | 3 | 2.1 | -- | 5 | 4.0 | -- |
| Motor Vehicle | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 2 | 1.6 | -- |
| Drown | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 1 | 0.8 | -- |
| Fire/Smoke Inhalation | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 2 | 1.6 | -- |
| Smother/Suffocate | 9 | 6.3 | -- | 2 | 1.6 | -- |
| Poison | 2 | 1.4 | -- | 1 | 0.8 | -- |
| Other | 3 | 2.1 | -- | 1 | 0.8 | -- |
| Unknown | 2 | 1.4 | -- | 1 | 0.8 | -- |
| OCME District | | | | | | |
| Central | 33 | 23.1 | 1.6 | 42 | 33.3 | 2.0 |
| Northern | 33 | 23.1 | 1.4 | 21 | 16.7 | 0.9 |
| Tidewater | 44 | 30.8 | 2.9 | 31 | 24.6 | 2.0 |
| Western | 33 | 23.1 | 2.1 | 32 | 25.4 | 2.0 |
| Type of Homicide | | | | | | |
| Intimate Partner | 49 | 34.3 | 0.6 | 52 | 41.3 | 0.7 |
| Intimate Partner Associated | 48 | 33.6 | 0.6 | 41 | 32.5 | 0.5 |
| Child by Caregiver | 18 | 12.6 | 1.0 | 11 | 8.7 | 0.6 |
| Elder by Caregiver | 2 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Family | 24 | 16.8 | 0.3 | 20 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| Family Associated | 2 | 1.4 | <0.1 | 1 | 0.8 | <0.1 |
| Total | 143 | 100 | 1.9 | 126 | 100 | 1.6 |

| | 2008 | | | 2009 | | | 2010 | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 78 | 51.7 | 2.0 | 76 | 54.7 | 1.9 | 92 | 54.1 | 2.3 |
| Male | 73 | 48.3 | 1.9 | 63 | 45.3 | 1.6 | 78 | 45.9 | 2.0 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 75 | 49.7 | 1.3 | 73 | 52.5 | 1.3 | 103 | 60.6 | 1.8 |
| Black | 72 | 47.7 | 4.4 | 60 | 43.2 | 3.7 | 59 | 34.7 | 3.6 |
| Other | 4 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 6 | 4.3 | 1.3 | 8 | 4.7 | 0.9 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 4 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 4 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 5 | 2.9 | 0.8 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | |
| <1 | 10 | 6.6 | 9.3 | 14 | 10.1 | 13.1 | 12 | 7.1 | 12.0 |
| 1-4 | 6 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 8 | 5.8 | 1.9 | 7 | 4.1 | 1.7 |
| 5-14 | 3 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 5 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| 15-24 | 35 | 23.2 | 3.2 | 26 | 18.7 | 2.3 | 31 | 18.2 | 2.8 |
| 25-34 | 25 | 16.6 | 2.3 | 24 | 17.3 | 2.2 | 29 | 17.1 | 2.7 |
| 35-44 | 25 | 16.6 | 2.2 | 22 | 15.8 | 2.0 | 37 | 21.2 | 3.3 |
| 45-54 | 22 | 14.6 | 1.9 | 18 | 12.9 | 1.6 | 26 | 15.3 | 2.1 |
| 55-64 | 14 | 9.3 | 1.6 | 13 | 9.4 | 1.4 | 15 | 8.8 | 1.6 |
| 65+ | 11 | 7.9 | 1.2 | 9 | 6.5 | 0.9 | 11 | 6.5 | 1.1 |
| Fatal Agency | | | | | | | | | |
| Firearm | 75 | 49.7 | -- | 38 | 44.7 | -- | 97 | 57.1 | -- |
| Sharp Instrument | 36 | 23.8 | -- | 14 | 16.5 | -- | 26 | 15.3 | -- |
| Blunt Instrument | 11 | 7.3 | -- | 6 | 7.1 | -- | 15 | 8.8 | -- |
| Personal Weapon | 16 | 10.6 | -- | 11 | 13.0 | -- | 21 | 12.4 | -- |
| Strangle/Choke | 10 | 6.6 | -- | 10 | 11.8 | -- | 8 | 4.7 | -- |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 2 | 1.2 | -- |
| Drown | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 1 | 1.2 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- |
| Fire/Smoke Inhalation | 2 | 1.3 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- |
| Smother/Suffocate | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 2 | 2.4 | -- | 3 | 1.8 | -- |
| Poison | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- | 1 | 5.9 | -- |
| Other | 4 | 2.6 | -- | 2 | 2.4 | -- | 7 | 4.1 | -- |
| Unknown | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 1 | 5.9 | -- |
| OCME District | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | 64 | 42.4 | 2.0 | 42 | 30.0 | 2.0 | 52 | 30.6 | 2.4 |
| Northern | 23 | 15.2 | 0.9 | 28 | 20.0 | 1.1 | 25 | 14.7 | 1.0 |
| Tidewater | 21 | 13.9 | 1.3 | 34 | 25.0 | 2.1 | 42 | 24.7 | 2.6 |
| Western | 43 | 28.5 | 2.7 | 34 | 25.0 | 2.1 | 50 | 29.4 | 3.0 |
| Type of Homicide | | | | | | | | | |
| Intimate Partner | 58 | 38.4 | 0.7 | 67 | 48.2 | 0.9 | 81 | 47.6 | 1.0 |
| Intimate Partner Associated | 43 | 28.5 | 0.6 | 30 | 21.6 | 0.4 | 25 | 14.7 | 0.3 |
| Child by Caregiver | 15 | 9.9 | 0.8 | 26 | 18.7 | 0.3 | 20 | 11.8 | 0.2 |
| Elder by Caregiver | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.2 | <0.1 |
| Family | 30 | 19.9 | 0.4 | 12 | 8.6 | 0.2 | 37 | 21.8 | 0.5 |
| Family Associated | 5 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 4 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 5 | 2.9 | <0.1 |
| Total | 151 | 100 | 1.9 | 139 | 100 | 1.8 | 170 | 100 | 2.1 |

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Alleged Offender- A person suspected of *or* charged (by law enforcement) with the commission of a homicide.

Caregiver- A person responsible for the care and/or supervision of another person.

Child- A person under the age of 18.

Elder Homicide by Caregiver- Victims 55 years of age or older who were killed by a caregiver.

Exposure- Refers to child exposure to FIP homicide, and includes visually witnessing the event, hearing the event, finding the injured or dead decedent, on the premises of the event, was a surviving victim, or some combination of these.

Fatal Agency- The instrument or method causing the injury which led to the death of a victim (e.g., firearm, poison, strangling).

Homicide- The intentional killing of a person by another.

Homicide Event- Information describing the characteristics and circumstances of homicides is provided in two ways, by individual *case* and *event*. For instance, if two persons are killed in a car accident, there are two victims and one event. This process of coding allows individual demographic information to be collected while providing an unduplicated count of the circumstances surrounding the event.

Homicide-Suicide Event- A homicide followed within seven days by the alleged offender's suicide.

Legal Intervention- An injury caused by the actions of a law enforcement officer while intervening during a domestic violence event.

Neglect – Fatal agency characterized as providing inadequate supervision, medical, and/or nutritional care by a caregiver.

Personal Weapon- A type of fatal agency characterized as a part of the body; for example, hands or feet used to beat a victim. This is classified as the fatal agency in cases of shaken baby syndrome.

Precipitating Characteristic- A circumstance identified during the death investigation that occurred immediately before or during the homicide event and could be considered a trigger of the violent act.

Primary vs. Secondary Decedent- A primary decedent is considered the one decedent who was the target during the homicide event. A secondary decedent is a person who was present during the event but was not the main target. These victims are often considered bystanders, to the event, including friends, children, strangers, etc., and are killed in the crossfire of domestic violence.

Risk Factors- Characteristics present prior to the occurrence of a homicide which might have placed the victim at an increased probability for violence.

Surveillance- The systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data regarding health events of interest for purposes of intervention and the creation of prevention strategies.

Medical Examiner (OCME) Districts

Central: **Counties** of Albemarle, Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fluvanna, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Richmond, and Westmoreland. **Cities** of Charlottesville, Colonial Heights, Emporia, Fredericksburg, Hopewell, Petersburg, Richmond, South Boston, and Williamsburg.

Northern: **Counties** of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas, Manassas Park, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Warren. **Cities** of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, and Winchester.

Tidewater: **Counties** of Accomack, Isle of Wight, Northampton, Southampton, and York. **Cities** of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

Western: **Counties** of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe. **Cities** of Bedford, Bristol, Buena Vista, Covington, Danville, Galax, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

Health Planning Regions (HPR)

Central: **Counties** of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, New Kent, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Surry, Sussex. **Cities** of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.

Northern: **Counties** of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. **Cities** of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

Eastern: **Counties** of Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond, Southampton, Westmoreland, and York. **Cities** of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.

Northwest: **Counties** of Albemarle, Augusta, Bath, Caroline, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Greene, Highland, King George, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Page, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren. **Cities** of Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

Southwest: **Counties** of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe. **Cities** of Bedford, Bristol, Covington, Danville, Galax, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem.

**For additional information on the Family and Intimate Partner
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